

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TC/A.U. 3761

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A disposable pant-like undergarment having a closed construction comprising:

a) a stretchable front panel having an inner surface, an outer surface, a first end, a second end, a first side edge, a second side edge, a first elastic band secured to said outer surface along said first end, and a second elastic band secured along said second end;

b) a stretchable back panel having an inner surface, an outer surface, a first end, a second end, a first side edge, a second side edge, a third elastic band secured to said outer surface along said first end, and a fourth elastic band secured along said second end, and said back panel is discontinuous from said front panel;

c) an absorbent assembly including a liquid pervious bodyside liner, a liquid-impervious outer cover, and an absorbent positioned therebetween, said absorbent assembly being secured to said inner surface of said front panel and said inner surface of said back panel, and said absorbent assembly capable of being folded to enable said front panel to overlap said back panel; and

d) a pair of seams joining said stretchable front and back panels together at said first and second side edges to form a pant-like undergarment having a waist opening and a pair of leg openings, said first and third elastic bands creating a waist band located adjacent to said waist opening and said second and fourth elastic bands creating a pair of leg bands located adjacent to said pair of leg openings, and said fourth elastic band having a stretching force that is greater than that of said second elastic band.

2. (Previously presented) The disposable pant-like undergarment of claim 1 having an outer surface and an inner surface, and said waist band is located on said outer surface and said pair of leg bands are located on said inner surface.

3. (Original) The disposable pant-like undergarment of claim 1 wherein said fourth elastic band has a contraction force that is greater than that of said second elastic band.

4. (Original) The disposable pant-like undergarment of claim 1 wherein said fourth elastic band has a stretching and contraction force that is greater than that of said first elastic band.

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5. (Original) The disposable pant-like undergarment of claim 1 wherein said fourth elastic band has a stretching and contraction force that is greater than that of said third elastic band.

6. (Original) The disposable pant-like undergarment of claim 1 wherein said fourth elastic band has a stretching and contraction force that is greater than that of said front panel.

7. (Original) The disposable pant-like undergarment of claim 1 wherein said fourth elastic band has a stretching and contraction force that is greater than that of said back panel.

8. (Original) The disposable pant-like undergarment of claim 1 wherein said first elastic band extends between said first and second side edges of said front panel and said third elastic band extends between said first and second side edges of said back panel.

9. (Original) The disposable pant-like undergarment of claim 1 wherein said second and fourth elastic bands are overlapped by said absorbent assembly.

10. (Previously presented) A disposable pant-like undergarment having a closed construction comprising:

a) a stretchable front panel having an inner surface, an outer surface, a first end, a second end, a first side edge, a second side edge, a first elastic band secured to said outer surface along said first end and extending between said first and second side edges, and a second elastic band secured along said second end and extending between said first and second side edges;

b) a stretchable back panel spaced apart from said front panel, said back panel having an inner surface, an outer surface, a first end, a second end, a first side edge, a second side edge, a third elastic band secured to said outer surface along said first end and extending between said first and second side edges, and a fourth elastic band secured along said second end and extending between said first and second side edges, and said back panel is discontinuous from said front panel;

c) an absorbent assembly including a liquid pervious bodyside liner, a liquid-impervious outer cover, and an absorbent positioned therebetween, said absorbent assembly being secured to said inner surface of said front panel and said inner surface of said back panel, and said absorbent assembly capable of being folded to enable said front panel to overlap said back panel; and

d) a pair of seams joining said stretchable front and back panels together at said first and second side edges to form a pant-like undergarment having a waist opening and a pair of leg openings, said first and third elastic bands creating a waist band located adjacent to said waist opening and said second and fourth elastic bands creating a pair of leg bands located adjacent to said pair of leg

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openings, and said fourth elastic band having a stretching force that is at least 1.2 times greater than that of said second elastic band.

11. (Original) The disposable pant-like undergarment of claim 10 wherein said fourth elastic band has a contraction force that is greater than that of said second elastic band.

12. (Original) The disposable pant-like undergarment of claim 10 wherein said second and fourth elastic bands are overlapped by said absorbent assembly.

13. (Original) The disposable pant-like undergarment of claim 12 wherein said second and fourth elastic bands are rendered non-elastic where they are overlapped by said absorbent assembly.

14. (Original) The disposable pant-like undergarment of claim 10 wherein said waist band contains a number of elastic strands and each of said pair of leg bands contains a lesser number of elastic strands.

15. (Original) The disposable pant-like undergarment of claim 14 wherein said waist band contains the same number of elastic strands as each of said pair of leg bands.

16. (Previously presented) A disposable pant-like undergarment having a closed construction comprising:

a) a stretchable front panel having an inner surface, an outer surface, a first end, a second end, a first side edge, a second side edge, a first elastic band secured to said outer surface along said first end and extending completely across said front panel from said first side edge to said second side edge, and a second elastic band secured along said second end and extending between said first and second side edges;

b) a stretchable back panel spaced apart from said front panel, said back panel having an inner surface, an outer surface, a first end, a second end, a first side edge, a second side edge, a third elastic band secured to said outer surface along said first end and extending completely across said back panel from said first side edge to said second side edge, and a fourth elastic band secured along said second end and extending between said first and second side edges, and said back panel is discontinuous from said front panel;

c) an absorbent assembly including a liquid pervious bodyside liner, a liquid-imperious outer cover, and an absorbent positioned therebetween, said absorbent assembly being secured to said inner surface of said front panel and said inner surface of said back panel, and said absorbent assembly capable of being folded to enable said front panel to overlap said back panel; and

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d) a pair of seams joining said stretchable front and back panels together at said first and second side edges to form a pant-like undergarment having a waist opening and a pair of leg openings, said first and third elastic bands creating a waist band adjacent to said waist opening and said second and fourth elastic bands creating a pair of leg bands adjacent to said pair of leg openings, and said fourth elastic band having a stretching force that is at least 1.5 times greater than that of said second elastic band.

17. (Original) The disposable pant-like undergarment of claim 16 wherein said fourth elastic band has a contraction force that is greater than that of said waist band.

18. (Original) The disposable pant-like undergarment of claim 16 wherein said waist band is wider than each of said pair of leg bands.

19. (Original) The disposable pant-like undergarment of claim 16 wherein said waist band has a width and each of said pair of leg bands has a width and the width of said waist band is equal to the width of each of said pair of leg bands.

20. (Original) The disposable pant-like undergarment of claim 16 wherein said waist band has a width and each of said pair of leg bands has a width and the width of said waist band is less than the width of each of said pair of leg bands.

21. (Original) The disposable pant-like undergarment of claim 16 wherein said waist band contains a number of elastic strands each of which is capable of being stretched at least 200% from an initial length and each of said pair of leg bands contains a number of elastic strands, each of which is capable of being stretched at least 200% from an initial length.

22. (Previously presented) A disposable pant-like undergarment having a closed construction comprising:

a) a stretchable front panel having an inner surface, an outer surface, a first end, a second end, a first side edge, a second side edge, a first elastic band secured to said outer surface along said first end, and a second elastic band secured along said second end;

b) a stretchable back panel spaced apart from said front panel, said back panel having an inner surface, an outer surface, a first end, a second end, a first side edge, a second side edge, a third elastic band secured to said outer surface along said first end, and a fourth elastic band secured along said second end, and said back panel is discontinuous from said front panel;

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c) a separate absorbent assembly including a liquid pervious bodyside liner, a liquid-impervious outer cover, and an absorbent positioned therebetween, said absorbent assembly being secured to said inner surface of said front panel and said inner surface of said back panel, and said absorbent assembly capable of being folded to enable said front panel to overlap said back panel; and

d) a pair of seams joining said stretchable front and back panels together at said first and second side edges to form a pant-like undergarment having a waist opening and a pair of leg openings, said first and third elastic bands creating a waist band located adjacent to said waist opening and said second and fourth elastic bands creating a pair of leg bands located adjacent to said pair of leg openings, and said fourth elastic band having a stretching force that is greater than that of said second elastic band.

23. (Previously presented) The disposable pant-like undergarment of claim 22 wherein said front and back panels are discontinuous from one another in a longitudinal direction.

24. (Previously presented) The disposable pant-like undergarment of claim 10 wherein said front and back panels are discontinuous from one another in a longitudinal direction.

25. (Previously presented) The disposable pant-like undergarment of claim 16 wherein said front and back panels are discontinuous from one another in a longitudinal direction.

26. (Previously presented) The disposable pant-like undergarment of claim 1 wherein said stretchable front panel, said stretchable back panel and said absorbent assembly are all separate members.

27. (Previously presented) The disposable pant-like undergarment of claim 10 wherein said stretchable front panel, said stretchable back panel and said absorbent assembly are all separate members.

28. (Previously presented) The disposable pant-like undergarment of claim 16 wherein said stretchable front panel, said stretchable back panel and said absorbent assembly are all separate members.

29. (New) A disposable pant-like undergarment comprising:

a) a stretchable front panel having a first end, a second end, a first side edge, a second side edge, a first elastic band secured along said first end, and a second elastic band secured along said second end;

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b) a stretchable back panel having a first end, a second end, a first side edge, a second side edge, a third elastic band secured along said first end, and a fourth elastic band secured along said second end, and said back panel is discontinuous from said front panel;

c) an absorbent assembly including a liquid pervious bodyside liner, a liquid-impervious outer cover, and an absorbent positioned therebetween, said absorbent assembly being secured to said stretchable front and back panels, and said absorbent assembly capable of being folded to enable said front panel to overlap said back panel; and

d) a pair of seams joining said stretchable front and back panels together at said first and second side edges to form a pant-like undergarment having a waist opening and a pair of leg openings, said first and third elastic bands creating a waist band located adjacent to said waist opening and said second and fourth elastic bands creating a pair of leg bands located adjacent to said pair of leg openings, and said fourth elastic band having a stretching force that is greater than that of said second elastic band.